



The State of New Hampshire  
*Department of Environmental Services*



Michael P. Nolin  
Commissioner

January 12, 2006

Representative David L. Babson Jr., Chairman  
Environment and Agriculture Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 303  
Concord, NH 03301

**SUBJECT: HB 1622-FN, an act relative to the state recycling program**

Dear Chairman Babson and Members of the Committee:

HB 1622-FN seeks to require state agencies to recycle recyclable waste materials for which markets have been identified. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

Under RSA 149-M:2, the general court has declared that:

- there are environmental and economic issues pertaining to the disposal of solid waste in landfills and incinerators;
- it is important to reserve landfill and incinerator capacity for solid wastes which cannot be reduced, reused, recycled or composted;
- the disposal of recyclable materials in landfills or processing of recyclable materials in incinerators should be discouraged; and,
- the goal of the state is to achieve a 40 percent minimum weight diversion of solid waste landfilled or incinerated on a per capita basis.

This bill would further the state's recycling goal while preserving landfill capacity for those wastes not subject to recycling or reuse.

As the state's environmental agency, DES has set an example of what can be accomplished when management and staff are committed to recycling. Over the past year, DES employees have diverted more than 50 tons of material from landfills, including 3,500 pounds of plastic, 900 pounds of aluminum, 75,000 pounds of paper, and 360 pounds of bottles. Other items recycled by DES include cardboard, copier toner cartridges, tyvek envelopes, and rechargeable batteries.

DES believes that this bill could be more effective if it included the requirement to also recycle glass bottles and aluminum cans. Recycling aluminum saves about 95% of the energy it would take to produce aluminum from bauxite, its original source. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television, or operate a computer for three hours. Every glass bottle recycled saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for four hours.

The Fiscal Note accompanying this bill does not take into account revenues generated through the sale of recycled materials thus reducing the overall cost to initiate the project. DES would also remind the committee that RSA 21-I:60-I established a special fund within the office of the

state treasurer to receive recycling revenue to be used for a statewide recycling program for state agencies.

DES appreciates the opportunity to support this bill. If you have any questions regarding this letter of testimony, please do not hesitate to call me or Tony Giunta, P.G. at 271-2905.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Nolin  
Commissioner

cc: Tony P. Giunta, P.G., Director, Waste Management Division  
Paul L. Heirtzler, P.E., Esq., Administrator, Waste Management Division

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